

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WALLACE D. COWARD,

Plaintiff,

v.

Q. THOMAS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-2429

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 2nd day of November 2023, upon consideration of Plaintiff Wallace D. Coward's Amended Complaint [Doc. No. 9], it is hereby **ORDERED** that Coward's Amended Complaint is **DISMISSED**, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), for failure to state a claim, as follows:

1. Coward's claim against Dr. Flower in his individual capacity for deliberate indifference to his medical needs is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.
2. The balance of the Amended Complaint is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.
3. Coward may file a Second Amended Complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order only as to his claim against Dr. Flower, in his individual capacity, for deliberate indifference to Coward's medical needs, specifically in connection with Coward's alleged allergic reaction to medication he was prescribed.
4. Any Second Amended Complaint must identify the defendant in the caption and the body of the filing, and shall state the basis for Coward's claims by providing as much information as possible about the "who," "what," "where," and "when" surrounding the incident or incidents giving rise to the claims. The Second Amended Complaint shall be a complete

document that does not rely on the initial Complaint, Amended Complaint or other papers filed in this case to state a claim and should explain the relevant facts underlying each claim that Coward intends to bring. When drafting his Second Amended Complaint, Coward should be mindful of the Court's reasons for dismissing the claims in his initial Complaint and Amended Complaint as explained in the Court's Memoranda. Upon the filing of a Second Amended Complaint, the Clerk shall not make service until so **ORDERED** by the Court.

5. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to send Coward a blank copy of the Court's form complaint for a prisoner filing a civil rights action bearing the above civil action number. Coward may use this form to file his Second Amended Complaint if he chooses to do so.<sup>1</sup>

6. If Coward does not wish to amend his Complaint, and he intends to stand on his Amended Complaint instead, he may file a notice with the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order stating that intent, at which time the Court will issue a final order dismissing the case. Any such notice should be titled "Notice to Stand on Amended Complaint," and shall include the civil action number for this case.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This form is available on the Court's website at <http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/documents/forms/frmc1983f.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See *Weber v. McGrogan*, 939 F.3d 232 (3d Cir. 2019) ("If the plaintiff does not desire to amend, he may file an appropriate notice with the district court asserting his intent to stand on the complaint, at which time an order to dismiss the action would be appropriate.") (quoting *Borelli v. City of Reading*, 532 F.2d 950, 951 n.1 (3d Cir. 1976)); *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 90 F.3d 696, 703–04 (3d Cir. 1996) (holding "that the district court did not abuse its discretion when it dismissed with prejudice the otherwise viable claims . . . following plaintiffs' decision not to replead those claims" when the district court "expressly warned plaintiffs that failure to replead the remaining claims . . . would result in the dismissal of those claims").

7. If Coward fails to file any response to this Order, the Court will conclude that Coward intends to stand on his Amended Complaint and will issue a final order dismissing this case.<sup>3</sup>

It is so **ORDERED**.

**BY THE COURT:**

/s/ **Cynthia M. Rufe**

**CYNTHIA M. Rufe, J.**

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<sup>3</sup> See *Weber*, 939 F.3d at 239–40 (explaining that a plaintiff’s intent to stand on his complaint may be inferred from inaction after issuance of an order directing him to take action to cure a defective complaint). The six-factor test announced in *Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 747 F.2d 863 (3d Cir. 1984), is inapplicable to dismissal orders based on a plaintiff’s intention to stand on his complaint. See *Weber*, 939 F.3d at 241 & n.11 (treating the “stand on the complaint” doctrine as distinct from dismissals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with a court order, which require assessment of the *Poulis* factors); see also *Elansari v. Altria*, 799 F. App’x 107, 108 n.1 (3d Cir. 2020) (per curiam). Indeed, an analysis under *Poulis* is not required when a plaintiff willfully abandons the case or makes adjudication impossible, as would be the case when a plaintiff opts not to amend his complaint, leaving the case without an operative pleading. See *Dickens v. Danberg*, 700 F. App’x 116, 118 (3d Cir. 2017) (per curiam) (“Where a plaintiff’s conduct clearly indicates that he willfully intends to abandon the case, or where the plaintiff’s behavior is so contumacious as to make adjudication of the case impossible, a balancing of the *Poulis* factors is not necessary.”); *Baker v. Accounts Receivables Mgmt., Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 171, 175 (D.N.J. 2013) (“[T]he Court need not engage in an analysis of the six *Poulis* factors in cases where a party willfully abandons her case or otherwise makes adjudication of the matter impossible.”) (citing cases).